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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1939

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CLERKS UNION HAS ENJOYABLE DINNER AFFAIR

Second Anniversary Fete Held Last Week at Brandon Hotel With Big Attendance.

Highlighting the development and organization efforts of the Joint Council of the Wholesale and Retail Employees of America, of this section of the state, was the banquet held on the occasion of the second anniversary of this active CIO union, held at the Brandon hotel, Spangler, Wednesday evening of last week, and with an attendance of more than 125, the plans of the committee were up to and way past their fondest expectations.

Plans for the affair had been in progress for several weeks and particularly pleasing to all concerned was the presence of many employers and their representatives, and the harmonious atmosphere that prevailed throughout the gathering. The committee in charge of the affair were Elmer Barger, International Vice President of the clerks union, as chairman; Meade Retailick, of Colver, and Kenneth Grazer, Thos. A. Owens of the Press-Courier, acted as toastmaster at the banquet.

Signally honoring the local Joint Council, their international secretary, treasurer, John Cooney, of New York City, made an especial trip to Spangler to be present on the progress of the industrially organized union of which he is an executive officer. Also present from the ranks of labor and likewise a speaker, was William Feeney, director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of Vandergrift, Pa. Elmer Barger was the third labor speaker and pointed out objectives of the union and topics of interest to it.

A number of representatives of employers talked briefly, and all were gratified at the spirit of unity and understanding that exists between management and employee. Included in this group were Mr. Rowley of the Cambria Mercantile Company, Cresson, Mr. Checkhart of the Colver Stores Co., at Colver, Mr. Magee of the Punxsutawney Beef and Provision Company, Mr. Traino, of the S. T. Runzo Co., of Cresson and others.

Guest speaker of the evening was Hon. Harve Tibbott of Ebensburg, representative in Congress from the 27th Pennsylvania district, who gave an interesting talk on citizenship and the future leaders of thought in this country. Mr. Tibbott also commented on his impressions of congress.

All in all, the second anniversary banquet of the Clerks of the Brandon Hotel will be remembered as a grand and glorious success. Music for the banquet and the dance which followed, was furnished by Clem Farabaugh's Orchestra of Carrolltown.

LABOR SEEN PERILED IF U. S. ENTERS WAR

Washington—Thomas Mooney said the other day that American labor will find itself in a virtual "strait-jacket" if the United States enters the European war.

Modern economy, he said, has reached a state of decay that requires "doctoring" which he said will be administered in the stress of modern mechanized warfare, at the expense of the rights of labor.

Mooney said labor may be "strangled" even before a declaration of war "through the flimsy excuse of an emergency."

The threat of war may force the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations to combine in "mutual self defense," he said.

"However," he added, "I think internal forces in the unions are more likely to force some kind of unity in order to meet the common problems of all labor."

Mooney dropped in to look over the Dies Committee's hearings on un-American activities. He described the committee as a "blatant attempt to smear the New Deal."

WPA APPROPRIATION TO LAST TILL JULY

Washington.—For the first time since its inception, the Works Progress Administration will make its regular appropriation of \$1,477,000,000 last until July 1, 1940, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

WPA Commissioner F. C. Harrington said he had no intention of asking Congress for additional funds. In each previous year, WPA has asked Congress for more money to continue its relief rolls at normal levels.

Colonel Harrington's announcement was made after he had estimated that WPA rolls would be increased by almost 250,000 persons this month, to bring the total relief rolls to 2,250,000.

HOLIDAY EDITION PRESS-COURIER OUT NEXT WEEK

Annual Issue, As In Former Years, Offers Merchants Fine Advertising Medium.

Next week, under date of Thursday, December 14th, the Union Press-Courier will issue its annual holiday edition. As in past years it will afford merchants an excellent advertising medium, to reach hundreds upon hundreds of homes not reached by any other medium.

Only once a year does the Press-Courier issue a special edition, and that is upon this occasion. Because of this fact, coupled with the great coverage given by five thousand copies sent through the mails to blanket the mining towns and other communities as well as the rural delivery routes in Northern Cambria, advertisers usually grasp the chance to have space in this edition.

This year the edition already gives promise of surpassing past achievements. With better working conditions and bigger pay rolls prevailing, the potential buying power that this edition will reach is well worth merchants' consideration.

Remember next week is the time. Your copy, reaching this office by next Tuesday at noon, will insure insertion.

As a criterion of the volume of next week's Press-Courier, this week's edition has reached 16 pages without any promotion on our part. We ask our readers to carefully scan the ads in the paper, both this week and next, and you can also do us a favor by telling the merchant you saw his ad in the Union Press-Courier.

HOPKINS SEES BOOM HOLIDAY SEASON AS BEST SINCE IN 1929

Washington.—Secretary of Commerce Harry L. Hopkins predicted the other day the best Christmas trade since the boom year of 1929.

He based his forecast on increased consumer purchasing power and the extended holiday buying season resulting from the change in Thanksgiving day dates in at least about a half of the states.

"There is no better indication of the ability of American families to buy goods and services than the amount of wages, salaries, dividends, interest and other types of income they are receiving," he said.

"The substantially higher payrolls disbursed in recent months mean better filled pocketbooks and a larger purchasing power which will, no doubt, be reflected in Christmas sales."

"Added to the greater consumer buying power is the extended shopping season itself which should stimulate earlier and protracted sales volume."

In his analysis of the business outlook, Mr. Hopkins said that income payments for individuals during October were \$6,200,000,000, a gain of over three hundred million dollars over October, 1938. In the first ten months of this year individuals received about \$2,400,000,000 more income than in the same period a year ago, he said.

CIO AND BETHLEHEM PLANNING NEGOTIATIONS

The CIO Steel Workers Organizing Committee have announced that Bethlehem Steel Corp. has invited SWOC committees to meet with management representatives at each of Bethlehem's plants, following union demands for negotiations of a signed contract.

The steel union made public a letter from George W. Vary, Bethlehem manager of industrial relations, to Clinton S. Golden, regional SWOC director, in which Mr. Vary pointed to machinery set up in each Bethlehem plant for discussing employer-employee relations.

Mr. Vary's letter followed SWOC charges that the company was evading union efforts to negotiate a signed contract and demands that the steel company "abide by the law of the land" and deal with union representatives.

Mr. Golden expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Vary's letter and, in a letter of reply, asked Bethlehem to state specifically whether the company is prepared to negotiate a contract with the union.

North Cambria Community Sales will be held the next four Saturdays, Dec. 9, 16, 23, and 30, at farm adjoining Patton Borough. Sale will start at 1 o'clock. Cattle, horses, hogs, poultry, and lots of miscellaneous articles for the December sales such as New Clothing, New and Used Hardware and Tools, Machinery, Grain, Produce, etc. Come to buy or to sell. Terms cash.—COL. G. G. BLOOM, Manager.

Lewis Moves to Organize the Building Industries

Washington.—Congress of Industrial Organizations President John L. Lewis on Tuesday night of this week ordered full speed ahead in a campaign to wrest control of labor in the construction industry from the American Federation of Labor and told his regional directors and organizers to "let no feeling of consideration for the adversaries of our movement weaken your resolve nor lessen your efforts."

912,000 TO GET BENEFITS UNDER OLD AGE SECURITY ACT IN 1940

Washington.—Social security board officers estimated the other day that approximately 912,000 persons will receive benefits during 1940—the first year payments are made under the old age insurance plan of the Social Security act.

The old age insurance system to which workers and employers in covered industries have been contributing for three years becomes effective on January 1st. Officials estimate that between 45 and 50 million wage earners are covered by that plan.

Jan. 1 will be the date when the first monthly benefits become payable to those who can qualify. In that category the board believes there will be 912,000 persons before the end of 1940. That estimate is based on the assumption that there will be 485,000 primary old age beneficiaries—that is persons 65 years of age or older—who are fully insured in their own right; 125,000 wives and 20,000 widows over 65; 78,000 young widows with dependent children; 194,000 dependent children; and 10,000 dependent parents.

The benefits will vary from \$10 a month to a maximum of \$85 a month, depending on the previous monthly average wage and the length of time employed before applying for a pension.

Last year congress amended the original act passed in 1935 to "liberalize" benefits of the act and include more than one million workers not previously covered by its provisions.

Among the changes made by congress were the advancement of the date for the payment of old age benefits from 1940 to Jan. 1, 1940; additional benefits to wage earners for dependents including supplementary benefits to wives and dependent children; monthly benefits to survivors of covered workers; and maintenance of the tax rate at the current level—one per cent paid by worker and 1 per cent by employer—until 1943.

Application of the old age insurance plan is complicated and varies with individual cases.

General requirements for those to receive benefits beginning Jan. 1st, however, are: A worker must be 65 years old and retired; he must have been employed at work governed by the pension system for six calendar quarters after 1936; in each of these quarters his covered wages must have been at least \$50.

A worker upon reaching the age of 65, cannot fulfill these work requirements, he can continue to work and file his claim after acquiring sufficient wage credits. Likewise if a worker does not wish to stop work at the age of 65, he can continue and file his claim when he does retire.

The formula for calculating monthly benefits is that the insured worker receives as a basic payment 40 per cent of the first \$50 of his average monthly earnings in covered employment, plus ten per cent of his average wage over \$50 and up to \$250 a month. He also receives an additional 1 per cent to reach year in which he has earned at least \$200 in covered employment.

An example—A man has received an average monthly wage of \$100 since the beginning of 1937 and retires at the age of 65 at the beginning of 1940. What would his monthly benefit amount to?

He would receive \$27.75 a month—40 per cent of \$50, of \$20; plus ten per cent of the remaining \$50, of \$5; plus 3 per cent of the basic benefit of \$25, or \$7.75, making a total of \$27.75.

If he has a wife who is at least 65 years old, she would be entitled to a benefit equal to one half of her husband's, or \$12.88, making a total monthly benefit to the couple of \$36.83.

For each dependent child he would receive an additional \$12.88.

NEW KATZ PHARMACY WILL OPEN IN BARNESBORO ON FRIDAY

On page three of this issue of the Press-Courier will be found the half page ad announcement of the proposed opening of the Katz Pharmacy in Barnesboro, on Friday, of this week, December 8th. They will feature deep cut prices and will have a registered pharmacist on duty at all times. A modern soda bar is a feature. In the announcement the management states "Allow us to welcome you to our new and modern drug store. Our purpose will be to give to the public first class drugs, toiletries, tobaccos and other drug sundries. A visit to the store will convince you that we are making every possible effort and leaving no stone unturned to bring you the finest of everything. It shall be our aim to provide for our customers prompt and courteous service. You are always welcome at Katz Pharmacy."

275 MILLION GALLONS OF ICE CREAM SOLD

State College.—The ice cream industry uses approximately 192 million pounds of sugar to supply the national per capita consumption of two gallons a year.

In addition 136 million pounds of butterfat goes into the nation's frozen confections, according to I. E. Parkin, dairy husbandry expert at Penn State College.

Parkin bases his estimates on the 275 million gallons of ice cream produced in the United States last year.

DUMAN-BRAWLEY NUPTIALS RECENTLY AT ST. VINCENT

Miss Mary Martha Brawley, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Brawley of Carrolltown, became the bride of Rupert Duman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Duman of Ebensburg R. D., at a ceremony performed preceding a solemn nuptial high mass in St. Vincent's arch-abbey at Latrobe recently. Rev. P. Maximilian Duman, O. S. B., of St. Vincent's College was the celebrant of the mass. He is a brother of the bridegroom. Rev. Malachy Brawley, a cousin of the bride was the deacon.

CENSUS TAKERS WILL SOON BE AT A GIGANTIC TASK

And This Time the Government Will Authorize Several Questions on Private Life.

Washington.—The questions to be asked in the 1940 census soon to be shown to the public in a personal sort of way, will pry into corners of American life that have never been fully explored.

In addition to the time worn job of finding out how many people live in the United States, and where—so that each state will know how many members of congress it is entitled to—the census will ask a group of questions whose answers will be pieced into a mosaic of social conditions.

A few of the new topics are: Whether homes are owned or rented and their value.

School attendance and the highest grade completed.

The citizenship of foreign born residents.

Changes of residence in the last 5 years.

Whether persons have jobs, are seeking jobs and if not, why not? If they have been looking for jobs, how long have they been out of work; if they have jobs, what are they working at.

Their salaries, wages or income and the source.

What persons have social security accounts and the proportion of their wages or salary subject to tax.

Besides this material which will furnish the meat for economists to feed upon for a decade, a separate list of questions is being prepared for a possible housing census.

All these are topics on which the New Deal economists have been seeking light for the last four or five years. Many of the administration's social endeavors have been aimed at the improvement of conditions whose existence had been detected by partial surveys.

COAL MACHINES HURTING LABOR

Pittsburgh.—Compared with 1929, mechanization in bituminous coal mines is causing a "considerable" lag in employment, but current aggregate payrolls have advanced sharply to improve the position of the worker, the University of Pittsburgh reports.

The University figures, based on the Pittsburgh district and the 1929 average, set last October's employment index at 75 and the October payroll index at 110.

The bureau explained these figures indicate that in October 72 miners were doing the work performed by 100 men in 1929, but were receiving ten per cent more in aggregate pay than the 100 received ten years ago.

Pointing to the present day advantage of the employer miner, the university observed federal and other statistical agencies estimate the cost of living for the present day wage earner at 20 per cent less than in 1929.

Statisticians of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee asserted a similar situation existed in the steel industry.

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES INCREASE WITH BOOM

Industrial gains in Pennsylvania have sounded the welcome jingle of silver in many workers' pockets but there has been an unhappy note in the corresponding increase in injuries to men in mines and factories.

The State Department of Labor and Industry reported 10,405 injuries in October, more than one accident for every minute of the working day.

The injuries showed an increase corresponding to the accelerated pace in industries. Anthracite mining led the list with 1381 injuries but bituminous mining and iron and steel, chief industrial activities in our section, ran second and third. There were 1125 injuries in bituminous mining and 1098 in steel and iron.

A total of 123 of the accidents were fatal.

2 SHOPPING WEEKS LEFT FOR ME, CANDY IS JUST DANDY BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

COUNTY RELIEF CASELOAD HITS LOWER LEVELS

Nearly 8,000 Persons Severed from State Assistance in About Three and a Half Months.

Dropping to the lowest point in a two year period the general assistance caseload of the Department of Public Assistance in Cambria County is within approximately 350 cases of reaching a new five year low it has been announced by Edward R. Golob, executive director.

The general assistance caseload on the last day of November stood at 2,722 cases, lowest point since January 1, 1938. Previous low mark for the county caseload, within the two-year period, was 2810 cases as of April 16, 1938.

Records available as far back as October 6, 1934, show the low point of the five year period to have been set on May 15, 1937, when 2,386 cases were on record. Highest caseload on record during that period was recorded September 7th, 1935, with 10,653 cases.

The caseload decline which resulted in the present two-year low was started during the week of August 12 when 5,077 cases were on record. And since that time the Cambria county general assistance load has dropped rapidly. Private employment and the WPA assignments in that order of importance are credited as being the chief factors in the sharp decrease.

On the accepted basis of 3.4 persons per general assistance case, the 2,355 case drop from mid-August to the end of November represents approximately 7,997 persons who were severed from state aid during the three and one-half month period.

Director Golob pointed out that general assistance is but one of the four classifications into which relief recipients are divided. The other classifications include the blind, those who receive old age pensions and the cases in the aid to dependent children category.

YOUNG PORTAGE NIMROD KILLED BY COMPANION

Paul Hudak, 21, Portage, was killed instantly about four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon when struck in the back by a high powered rifle bullet fired from a gun in the hands of his best friend and hunting companion, Paul Bense, 22, also of Portage R. D.

The bullet from the .35 caliber rifle entered the victim's back below the shoulder and emerged through the chest. The bullet was believed to have passed through his heart.

Bense informed Coroner Patrick McDermott that he and Hudak were hunting near Mountandale on a wooded section about 250 yards from the highway when they spied two deer. Bense said that Hudak was standing directly in front of him and therefore he did not shoot at the animals.

He told of attempting to move to the side and away from the back of Hudak and while he was walking his gun was accidentally discharged. Bense informed officers that he was not aware that his gun had been discharged as he did not feel any recoil.

However, he told of seeing his companion fall on his side and lie still. Bense said that after he realized Hudak had been shot he ran from the woods and "hitch hiked" a ride to Portage where he notified police authorities.

U. S. COAL EXPORTS RISING SHARPLY

Washington.—United States exports of anthracite and bituminous coal increased sharply in September, 1939, as the result of war abroad, according to the Fuels Section, Metals and Minerals Division, Department of Commerce.

Anthracite coal exported from the United States in September of this year amounted to 400,000 long tons, valued at 3,427,000, compared with shipments in September, 1938, of only 129,000 tons, valued at \$1,071,000.

Bituminous coal foreign shipments from the United States in September 1939, increased almost half a million tons to 1,525,000 long tons valued at \$6,222,000 compared with 1,032,000 tons valued at \$4,082,000 shipped abroad in September 1938.

1940 POULTRY AND EGG STOCKS WILL TOP 1939

Harrisburg.—Market receipts of both dressed poultry and eggs are expected to continue larger this fall and winter than last, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Storage stocks of eggs and poultry are now larger than last year and are expected to be above the 1939 levels on January 1, 1940.